

Abstract

The principle aim of my work titled "Violations of human rights within the American War on Terror: A case study of Guantanamo Bay and Abu Ghraib" is an attempt to show that violations of human rights, in prisons built by the United States for suspected terrorists, were not only committed by a number of lower-ranked soldiers, but by the American government, who provided suitable conditions for such practices. By becoming familiar with the basic principles of international treaties and agreements covering human rights and the rights of prisoners, as well as by examining American orders and memoranda after September 11th, this paper introduces the environment in which the controversial actions against prisoners could have arisen. Practices that violate international principles are explored in two main chapters, derived from the prisons in which they were committed. A separate section is also dedicated to the status of enemy combatant, which the United States decided to use to label all captured members of Al-Qaeda and the Taliban, thus denying them due process under the Geneva Conventions. Together with all these aspects the paper provides a perspective on the difficulties of prisoners' legal rights during a unique security conflict, which the War on Terror following September 11th, 2001 undoubtedly is.